

INFORMATION REGARDING THE POSSIBLE MERGER OF GULF COAST AREA REPEATER CLUB AND FT. MYERS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Board of Directors of GCARC and FMARC have held a series of meetings to explore the possibility of merging the two clubs. The following information is respectfully presented to you, for review and consideration. The information outlined below is the result of lengthy discussions between the Directors. At this point, the Directors need feedback from the membership to formulate further plans. It is important to understand, **NO FINAL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE YET WITH REGARD TO THE POSSIBLE MERGER.** We are still in an exploratory phase. Both Boards have given extensive thought to this possible merger. We now need your input. Members are the lifeblood of any club and your opinions are extremely important. If you care about the future of either club or both clubs, please take the time to send us your comments, thoughts, questions, and opinions, whether they are positive or negative. Submit your feedback to the following email address: **merger@fmarc.net**. Alternatively, you can respond via snail mail to FMARC PO Box 061183 Ft. Myers, FL 33906. All comments will be compiled and presented back to the membership. **THE DEADLINE FOR FEEDBACK IS SEPTEMBER 30, 2009.**

INFORMATION - Items are numbered for reference purposes only. The items are **NOT** presented in any particular priority. Some items may be repetitive or overlapping. These can all be clarified in the future with membership input.

1. A merged club would need only: one set of officers; one incorporation to renew each year; one general liability insurance policy - although the premiums may be higher if there are more members (premiums are based on total number of members); need to rent one meeting place.
2. A technical committee will be created to maintain the repeaters. Committee chairperson could be the additional board member.
3. 501c3 will benefit both clubs.
4. Decreased rental costs as only one meeting place will be needed for monthly meetings.
5. GCARC name will no longer exist - club has been in existence since 1974.
6. GCARC would merge with FMARC - a club that has been in existence for 50 years.
7. There will be an increase in FMARC dues (anticipated anyway for 2010) to cover costs of repeaters.
8. Separate technical fund will be established so money will always be available for repeater expenses and maintenance.
9. Current GCARC funds would transfer to FMARC.
10. There will be an allotment of monies out of the dues dedicated to the continuing upkeep of the repeaters.

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11. Separate equipment insurance policy will be maintained.
12. Membership may increase or decrease depending on members willingness to pay increased dues and willingness to have repeaters as part of FMARC.
 - a. The reason GCARC was formed was because "HF people" did not want to support repeaters.
13. There will be a subcommittee of repeater members to control the GCARC money and take care of the repeaters - submitted by Ivan KF4WBN.
14. What guarantee does GCARC have that the repeaters will not be shut down if FMARC members decide they do not want to take care of the repeaters?
 - a. Revision of the constitution and bylaws would be one way to guarantee the repeaters.
15. If the merger were to be completed before close of 2009, both executive boards would remain in place and meet jointly until new elections are held to elect a single board.
16. Additional expenses to FMARC: equipment insurance, phone bill.
17. For GCARC members who are also FMARC members (dual members)- will likely see a decrease in membership dues as they would be paying dues to only one club.

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Thank you from the Board of Directors of GCARC and FMARC.